

Sharon Capeling-Alakija

Director, UNIFEM (United Nations' Development Fund for Women)

Getting Women on the Agenda and Keeping them there (The Earth Summit: A Case Study)

UNIFEM's mandate is to pioneer approaches which will enable women's participation in national planning; to support innovative economic activities of grassroots women; and to be an effective instrument of advocacy and action in the service of the women of the developing countries. Recognizing the magnitude of the challenge in its mandate and the limit of its resources, UNIFEM concentrates its efforts in two sectors of obvious strategic importance to women: agriculture and trade and industry. Work within these two key sectors is supported by concentrations on credit, technology transfer and small business development.

A native of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Ms. Capeling-Alakija began her career as a volunteer for CUSO, Canada's largest non-governmental organization working in international development. Becoming a staff member, she spent sixteen years with the organization, which took her from posts in Barbados and Tanzania to work in Public Affairs, Funding and Human Resource Development in Ottawa and, finally, to Lomé, Togo, where she was West Africa Regional Director, responsible for CUSO's programmes in Ghana, Nigeria, Togo, Sierra Leone, Cameroon and The Gambia.

Ms. Capeling-Alakija is currently an executive member of the Board of the North/South Institute, and is among the few women in senior management in the United Nations system.

Monday, April 5, at 12h00

The Lounge

Simone de Beauvoir Institute

2170 Bishop Street

Information/Reservation: 848-2373

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